

## Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>CONTENTS.....</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>WELCOME NOTE .....</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>POLITICAL HOTSPOT.....</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>1 NEWS.....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| 1.1 POLICY .....   | 4         |
| Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) .....                                   | 4         |
| GMOs .....   | 7         |
| Organic regulation .....   | 8         |
| Food Policy .....  | 10        |
| Climate Change .....   | 10        |
| Plant health care .....  | 11        |
| Biodiversity, soil and water .....                                       | 12        |
| Fairness and transparency .....  | 14        |
| Food, farm and environment .....   | 15        |
| 1.2 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION.....   | 16        |
| Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics.....                      | 16        |
| Knowledge for organic .....  | 18        |
| <b>2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENT .....</b>                         | <b>21</b> |
| Saying goodbye to our colleagues.....                                    | 22        |
| Welcoming our new colleagues .....                                       | 23        |
| <b>3 EVENTS .....</b>  | <b>25</b> |
| 3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS.....   | 25        |
| 3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS .....   | 29        |
| <b>4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE.....</b> | <b>32</b> |
| <b>5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS .....</b>  | <b>33</b> |

## WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers,

I would like to welcome you back to our first newsletter after the summer break. I hope you have had a restful few weeks and were able to gather strength and energy for the rest of the year despite the ongoing health crisis. We have been keeping busy during the summer, so expect a newsletter full of updates!

### EU Organic Day

I would like to take the chance to highlight an important day for us as the European organic movement. After successful advocacy efforts towards the European institutions, they instated [EU Organic Day on 23 September](#) – a chance for us as a sector and movement to be even more visible. On 23 September 2021, the European Parliament, Council of the European Union and European Commission signed a Joint Declaration officially instating 23 September as EU Organic Day. Jan Plagge, President of IFOAM Organics Europe, was present at the signature ceremony with other representatives from the agri-food sector the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions. Of course, as a movement we also celebrated extensively and [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) using #OrganicEU and #EUOrganicDay.

The plans for next year's EU Organic Day are still under construction. As European organic movement, we will liaise with our members and internal bodies to communicate about national events and other efforts in September and on 23 September. We will share more information with our members about next year's event once it is available. In the meantime, please start preparing your communications and share your activities with [communication@organiceurope.bio](mailto:communication@organiceurope.bio).

### CAP vote & Member States' development of national Strategic Plans

At political level, the CAP reform continues. Technical discussions continued during July and the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development approved new consolidated CAP Regulations early September. The European Parliament is expected to vote new CAP Regulations during a plenary session late November 2021.

From now on, we must focus our efforts at national level. EU Member States are currently drafting their national CAP Strategic Plan, which must be submitted by 31 December 2021 and that will play a huge role in reaching the 25% organic land target by 2030. To support our members' national advocacy, we published '[Organic in Europe - Prospects and developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans](#)'. The report highlights potential targets for organic land at the national level, and how much of the national CAP budgets would need to be dedicated to organic farming in all Member States to reach these national targets and the EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' average target of 25% organic land by 2030.

Interested readers can find a detailed update on the CAP reform in our political hotspot and IFOAM Organics Europe's members can find more detailed information on our [member extranet](#).

### What lies ahead in the last months of 2021

In the coming months of this year, three important events are taking place.

On 30 September and 1 October, the [Organic Food Conference](#) will happen live & online in Warsaw, Poland. Together with policy-makers, organic retailers, processors, traders, certifiers and other organic



stakeholders we will talk about ‘the future of organic food’. [Take your last chance to register](#). Cannot make it? We will be live tweeting on [Twitter](#) using #OFC2021 and #OrganicFoodConference.

On 30 November and 1 December, [TP Organics](#) organises the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of its [Organic Innovation Days](#) ‘Better inputs for organic farming’. For this year’s edition, TP Organics partners with two Horizon 2020-funded EU projects [RELACS](#) and [Organic-PLUS](#) – aiming at reducing the use of contentious inputs in organic farming systems. Participants can meet members of TP Organics, network with EU stakeholders and decision-makers, as well as discuss and exchange with the RELACS and Organic-PLUS project partners. [Register now!](#)

Last but not least, we will host the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of [IFOAM Organics Europe meets business – Bringing the organic food industry together](#). On 9-10 December, IFOAM Organics Europe’s members and companies involved or interested in organic will meet to exchange on the new EU Organic Regulation and other policy-related issues. The event be held virtually.

I would like to thank our members, office staff and organic stakeholders for their dedication to continue making Europe more organic. Together, we can make our Vision 2030 of transforming food and farming a reality.

Organic regards,  
Eduardo Cuoco  
IFOAM Organics Europe Director

## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

As the final vote on the deal is looming, and Member States are preparing their CAP national Strategic Plans, the new CAP will be under intense scrutiny in the next weeks. And rightly so, as the agreement leaves Member States a lot of flexibility on their level of ambition to use the huge CAP budget either to really transition to agroecology, or to defend vested interests and business as usual.

Proposed by the Commission in 2018, before the adoption of the Green Deal as the new “guiding light” of EU policy, the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation was hardly improved by the European Parliament negotiating team. Under Peter Jahre’s leadership the Parliament’s negotiations team was quick to back down to the Council’s unwillingness to explicitly link the CAP to the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity strategies’ targets. So, the new CAP Regulations do not have enough measures that could safeguard meaningful changes for climate and biodiversity.

The Guardian recently revealed that “20 meat and dairy firms emit more greenhouse gas than Germany, Britain or France”. Yet the new CAP Regulations will not prevent Member States from giving harmful subsidies to intensive farming.

This is why many NGOs are calling on Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to vote this CAP down during November’s Plenary vote. While IFOAM Organics Europe shares such criticisms and believes this new CAP is not ambitious enough, our Interest Group of Organic Farmers and Board decided there was no point for the organic movement to call on MEPs to reject this CAP. The problem is less the Commission’s proposal itself than the defence of the status quo by national governments.



The real battle to make the CAP contribute to the Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) is already taking place now national governments are drafting their CAP national Strategic Plans. Our members are active in all EU countries to ensure the CAP will contribute to the development of organic farming at national level, but they are not always listened too.

On the other side, conventional farmers organisations attack the F2F Strategy and its targets, trying to weaken Commissioner Wojciechowski's position. They showcase organic farming as a type of agriculture that would not produce enough yields compared to conventional farming and that would make Europe less competitive in terms of agricultural products prices and trade balance. Conventional farmers organisations do not consider organic farming's benefits on the environment, animal welfare and social aspects, as highlighted in our last [report on biodiversity](#).

What will make a difference (or not) is the political will of the European Commission to defend the Green Deal when it approves the CAP national Strategic Plans during the first semester of 2022.

Are you advocating on a national CAP Strategic Plan? Have a look at our publication '[Organic in Europe - Prospects and developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans](#)'. This document highlights potential targets for organic land at the national level, and how much of the national CAP budgets would need to be dedicated to organic farming in all Member States to reach these national targets and the EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' average target of 25% organic land by 2030.

IFOAM Organics Europe will continue to inform its members regarding the development of this CAP reform. For more information on the CAP and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio). Please do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

Our members can also consult our [arguments database on the member extranet](#) for background materials on topic (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

## 1 NEWS

### 1.1 Policy

#### Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

##### Key points CAP2023-2027 reform and focus CAP National Plans

The Trialogue negotiations between the European Parliament (EP), European Commission (EC) and European Council (EP) came to an end late June 2021, and the remaining technical discussion finished on 23 July.

On 9 September, the EP's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI) [approved](#) the three CAP 2023-2027 Regulations – CAP Strategic Plans; financing, management and monitoring of the CAP; and a Regulation on Rules on the Common Organisation of the Market on Agricultural Products.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can find a detailed update on the CAP reform – an overview of the new regulations, voting results and the relevant points to the organic movement on our [member extranet](#).



## **What comes next?**

The focus is now at the national level, given all EU Member States are currently drafting their **CAP national Strategic Plan (SP)**. They will have to submit their SP **by 31 December 2021**, and then the European Commission will have one semester to approve them or not. If the plenary of the EP approves new CAP Regulations and if the EC approves the CAP national SPs, **the new CAP 2023-2027 Regulations will enter into force as of 1 January 2023.**

IFOAM Organics Europe calls on Member States to

- Include the Green Deal and Farm to Fork targets in ambitious SPs,
- Allocate the necessary funds to climate and environmentally friendly measures, and
- Allocate appropriate support for the development of organic production

## **Advocacy materials & further reading**

To support its members' national advocacy, IFOAM Organics Europe published '[Organic in Europe - Prospects and developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans](#)'. This document highlights potential targets for organic land at the national level, and how much of the national CAP budgets would need to be dedicated to organic farming in all Member States to reach these national targets and the EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' average target of 25% organic land by 2030.

We also published Organic Farming and Biodiversity – Policy Options highlighting the contribution of organic farming to protecting Europe's biodiversity, and proving organic farming is a solution to shift towards more sustainable food and farming practises.

Despite having 50% of EU's spending for climate allocated to the CAP, the agricultural sector's greenhouse gas emissions do not decrease, according to [a report published by the European Court of Auditors in June 2021](#).

Moreover, IFOAM Organics Europe also calls on Member States and the European Commission to include farmers, NGOs, citizens, researchers, agroecologists and public authorities in the CAP SPs approval process. To this end, we co-signed [a joint letter from civil society organisations calling for a fair and transparent process](#).

## **JRC report on CAP & greenhouse gas emissions**

Finally, we would like to mention [a report by the Commission's Joint Research Center](#) (JRC). During the summer, the JRC released a report aimed at assessing whether the CAPRI model could be a relevant tool to evaluate EU agricultural policies.

Contrary to what some claim, such as [COPA COGECA in its press release](#) from 9 August 2021, this report is not an impact assessment. As such, the report's conclusions should not be used as claims that the implementation of the European Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy's targets with the current CAP2014-2020 would have negative consequences – such as a loss of 10% up to 50% of yield due to the reduction of pesticides and fertilizers use, a decrease of farmers' revenues, a lower competitiveness of agricultural products triggering a decrease of exports and an increase of imports. The CAPRI model showed many weaknesses mentioned by the JRC itself – as many indicators such as pollinators are not considered. The report cannot be used as a tool to precisely analyze the impact of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy – as also mentioned by [PAN Europe](#).

For more information on the CAP and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on the CAP, please contact [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio). Please do note that we prioritise our members' requests.



Our members can also consult our [arguments database on the member extranet](#) for background materials on topic (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## Organic farming part of EU Commission's long-term vision for rural areas

The European Commission's new communication [A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas – Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040](#) clearly mentions organic and biodistricts as opportunities for rural areas.

To counter challenges that rural areas are facing, like population decline and ageing, the European Commission identifies opportunities in rural areas. The communication rightly identifies the natural resources of rural areas as key defining assets on which to build a sustainable and prosperous future.

It says "When well-managed, rural landscapes covered by forests and natural areas help regulate water flows, capture carbon and air pollutants from the atmosphere, prevent soil erosion and provide ecosystem services. Sustainable farming and forestry management which encompasses environmental, economic and social sustainability, helps safeguard decent work and livelihoods, ecological systems and biodiversity and also enhances climate and risk resilience. Improving the quality of produced output and supporting farmers, foresters and rural entrepreneurs who are the enablers of the transition towards a greener society and economy is essential."

### Organic farming & biodistricts offer opportunities for rural areas

Organic farming is a farming system that offers the ecosystems services mentioned in the Commission's communication. This is why we're happy that the Commission clearly mentions organic: "The evolving consumer demand for better quality, more sustainable and healthy food including organic products can generate new opportunities for farmers and the rural economy. The transition towards organic production methods, the development of short supply chains, local processing and innovative products, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy and the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production, can contribute to strengthening the role of farmers and increasing their income."

Moreover, the Commission clearly puts biodistricts forward as an opportunity, namely for tourism. This is in line with what we talked about at our session [A Long Term Vision for Rural Development](#) at the European Organic Congress.

### Why are rural areas important?

The EU's rural areas are a core part of the European way of life. They are home to 137 million people representing almost 30% of its population and over 80% of its territory, considering all communes and municipalities of Europe with low population size or density. They are widely recognised and valued for food production, management of natural resources, protection of natural landscapes, as well as recreation and tourism. Many of our traditions, festivals and culture are rooted in Europe's rural areas.

## More information

- Watch the Commission's press conference interventions by [Vice-President Dubravka Šuica](#) and Commissioners [Janusz Wojciechowski](#) and [Elisa Ferreira](#) and the [Q&A](#) (in which Commissioner Wojciechowski briefly talks about organic agriculture) on the Long-term vision for rural areas;
- Watch our session [A Long Term Vision for Rural Development](#) at the European Organic Congress

Consult our [arguments database on the member extranet](#) for background materials on topic (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos). For more information on rural development and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio). Please do note that we prioritise our members' requests. For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## GMOs

### Public consultation for new legal proposal

On 29 April 2021, the European Commission published a study on the status of New Genomic Techniques under Union law and in light of the Court of Justice ruling in Case C-528/16'. IFOAM Organics Europe discussed the reports' findings on [previous occasions](#) and expressed concerns that weakening the rules on using genetic engineering in agriculture and food is worrying news and could leave organic food systems unprotected.

While the impact on organic producers was mentioned in the report, no constructive solution was proposed on how to maintain traceability along the food chain. This includes the question of how and whether traceability of these organisms would be maintained for organic producers and enabling them not to use products from genetic engineering in their production process. Nevertheless, the Commission is moving forward with plans to create a new and specific legal framework for "novel genomic techniques".

The next step is [a public consultation on the Inception Impact Assessment for “new genomic techniques”, which opened during the last week of September or the first week of October](#). This consultation is open for all citizens and organisations and aims to identify crucial issues to be considered before a new legal proposal is made. **The outcomes of this consultation will feed into the upcoming Impact Assessment, which is why it is so crucial to raise the perspective of the organic movement, so that the process can start off on the right foot.** IFOAM Organics Europe will also participate in this consultation, representing the European organic movement's voice.

For more information on GMOs and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [martin.sommer@organicseurope.bio](mailto:martin.sommer@organicseurope.bio). Please do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos). For information about what you can gain from being a member, read our membership page and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## The debate about new GMOs in Europe: Our Policy Coordinator in conversation with Slow Food Europe

In their [podcast series](#) on European food and farming policies, [Slow Food Europe](#) brings together experts to discuss hot matters in Brussels. The first episode of the series covers new GMO, specifically the recent [European Commission's study](#) concerning the status of new genomic techniques under Union law and in light of the Court of Justice ruling in Case C-528/16.

Martin Sommer, IFOAM Organics Europe's Policy Officer on GMOs, Patent and Seeds, discusses the latest developments on the subject, covering historical and current context of GMOs and new genomic techniques, their impact, and the current discussion's relevance to the Commissions' report. Rather tellingly, Martin elaborates on how organic farming is GMO-free and reminds about the necessity of precautionary measures when it comes to introducing organisms into the environment.

[Tune in](#) to discover why the Commission's report is not adequately addressing citizens and consumers' perspective on this hot topic. Other reflections on the subject are discussed by Elisa d'Aloisio, peasant farmer at the European Coordination Via Campesina who holds a PhD in genetics and practical expertise in GMOs, and Madeleine Coste, Policy Officer at Slow Food Europe.

New episodes of the podcast series are released every two-months on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#).

For more information on the organic food and farming movement's position on the study, [read our press release](#).

For more information on GMOs and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [martin.sommer@organicseurope.bio](mailto:martin.sommer@organicseurope.bio). Please do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

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For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio)

## Organic regulation

### New EU Organic Regulation applies 1 January 2022: Guide to help operators coming soon

New Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 will apply from 1 January 2022. The basic regulation published in June 2018 will be accompanied by around 23 acts of secondary legislation, most of them not yet published.

Additional acts of secondary legislation will be published in the following months and years, making reading and understanding the new EU organic regulation very challenging for organic operators and other stakeholders.

Will you need help interpreting these changes?



**Don't worry, we are working on a guide, which will help our members and other interested parties navigate the labyrinth of the new legal framework.**

**Our members will be able to enjoy the guide for free!**

The guide will simplify reading the regulation by:

- Grouping content areas,
- Highlighting the main changes compared to the current regulations, and
- Providing recommendations for the implementation of unclear requirements and/or requirements with room for interpretation.

The objectives are:

1. Simplifying the reading for operators and other stakeholders, so they will not need to navigate the numerous legal acts and cross-references with difficulty
2. Possible harmonization of the new rules in the different Member States and Third Countries, through recommendations for implementing certain requirements which may give room for different interpretations.

This work was made possible thanks to early commitments from these seeders:

- [Servicio de Certificación CAAE S.L.U.](#) (CAAE),
- [Controllo e Certificazione CCPB - CCPB Srl](#) (CCPB),
- [Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd](#) (OF&G),
- [Ecocert](#),
- [Bionext](#), and
- [Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture](#) (CTPEZ).

Stay tuned, we will provide more details in the next weeks.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can contact [emanuele.busacca@organicseurope.bio](mailto:emanuele.busacca@organicseurope.bio) for questions on the EU Organic Regulation. Please note that we will not answer to non-members' requests.

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read our membership page and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

# THANK YOU

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DEVELOPING ORGANIC: PESTICIDE USE AND CONTAMINATION



## Food Policy

### Have your say! IFOAM Organics Europe provided feedback to the Commission's EU School Scheme roadmap

As announced in the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy, the Commission will “review the EU school scheme to enhance its contribution to sustainable food consumption and in particular to strengthen educational messages on the importance of healthy nutrition, sustainable food production and reducing food waste”.

#### What is the EU school scheme, you ask?

The EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme supports the distribution of products, educational measures, and information measures. The total EU budget for the scheme, in the period 2017-23, was set at €250 million per school year of which up to €150 million for fruit and vegetables and up to €100 million for milk.

More information on the EU School Scheme [is available on the European Commission's website](#).

In view of reviewing this scheme, the European Commission asked for [stakeholders' feedback to their roadmap and inception impact assessment](#) throughout July 2021.

#### The European organic movement's feedback

IFOAM Organics Europe [replied to this roadmap, mainly highlighting](#) that increasing the ambition of the EU school scheme in terms of the share of organic products will result in an increase in demand for organic products. This, in turn will lead to increased farm conversion to organic and is therefore one of the ways in which the words and the targets of the F2F strategy can become reality. More organic products in school canteens have also resulted in other benefits which are highlighted in IFOAM Organics Europe's feedback.

#### Have you say – Next steps

The next step will be [for stakeholders to give feedback to the public consultation](#) on this same topic in the first quarter of 2022. For every “Have your say” Commission initiative, stakeholders can reply to the roadmap, and then to the public consultation.

## Climate Change

### Public consultation on carbon farming initiative roadmap & re-launch climate change task force

The European Commission has opened its [public consultation](#) on the roadmap for the initiative “Restoring sustainable carbon cycles” and feedback can be provided until 7 October.

The initiative:

- Aims to develop a long-term vision for sustainable carbon cycles;
- Will propose an action plan for the promotion of carbon farming; and
- Will identify key elements for a regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals and carbon farming – the framework itself will be an initiative on its own.



Have a look at the [videos from the SOLMACC project](#) in which organic farmers share their experiences with climate-friendly practices they applied.

### **IFOAM Organics Europe's task force on climate change restart**

To position the EU organic movement on initiatives like the upcoming carbon farming strategy and other upcoming political developments such as the revision of the LULUCF regulation, IFOAM Organics Europe has recently re-launched its Task Force on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

This will allow an increased focus on the urgent issues of climate and biodiversity and strengthen the voice of the organic food and farming movement in the EU policy debate on climate action in the agricultural sector.

Would you like more information and/or are interested in joining the task force? Please contact [hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio](mailto:hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio). Do note that we prioritise our members' requests and the task force is only accessible to members.

IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## **Plant health care**

### **Last Commission consultation before presentation revised Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive**

On 5 October, Mathilde Calmels, IFOAM Organics Europe's Policy Coordinator on Pesticides, Natural Inputs and Fertilisers, will be one of the speakers of the [Commission's stakeholder event on the Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive \(SUD\) 2009/128/EC](#).

This is the final in a series of three public Commission events gathering stakeholders' feedback on the SUD's evaluation and impact assessment of its possible future revision. The day will focus on the external study contractor presenting draft findings of its evaluation and impact assessment work. As IFOAM Organics Europe we will have the opportunity to present our views and reaction to the results of this study, together with 10 other stakeholders.

### **The SUD, crucial to achieving Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy's goals**

As the SUD is the EU's main legislative tool to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment, its revision is a major challenge to achieve the F2F strategy's pesticide reduction target.

IFOAM Organics Europe has been involved all along the stakeholder consultation process on the SUD revision promoting organic agriculture as the most efficient option to reduce pesticide use.



## What comes next

The Commission's legislative proposal for a revised SUD is expected in early 2022. This will launch the co-decision procedure between the European Parliament and the Council, in which IFOAM Organics Europe will remain strongly involved.

Please contact [mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio](mailto:mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio) for questions on pesticides and natural inputs. Do note that we prioritise our members' requests. For information about what you can gain from being a member, read our membership page and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## Upcoming vote on the Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs (SAIO) in AGRI Committee

On 2 February 2021, the Commission published its [proposal for a Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs \(SAIO\)](#), which should provide updated data to effectively monitor the implementation of the Farm to Fork strategy, including the targets for reducing the use of pesticides, fertilisers and antibiotics. For IFOAM Organics Europe, this legislative initiative has been an opportunity to highlight the need to produce useful, precise and relevant statistics on organic production and in particular on its approach to agricultural inputs.

We are pleased to see that some of the [300 amendments](#) tabled by the Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI) on the Commission's proposal introduce relevant improvements, such as the:

- Addition of a disaggregated statical level to specify whether the data are from organic or non-organic farms;
- Creation of statistics on the transition to minimal use of chemical inputs by collecting data on integrated pest management and other indirect measures – which could be a first step in considering the whole plant health strategy implemented by farmers;
- Extension of the scope of data collected to veterinary medicinal products (in addition to PPPs and fertilisers).

The tentative planning announces a vote on the SAIO Regulation in COMAGRI in October. We will continue to follow the developments on this legislative dossier closely.

Please contact [mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio](mailto:mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio) for questions on pesticides and natural inputs. Do note that we prioritise our members' requests. For information about what you can gain from being a member, read our membership page and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## Biodiversity, soil and water

### Sign 'save bees and farmers' before 30 September!

In case you have not signed the European Citizens' Initiative to '[Save bees and farmers](#)' yet, you can still do so until 30 September 2021!

If the initiative gathers one million signatures by the end of September, the European institutions must consider turning the campaign's demands into law.



800,000 people from all over Europe have already signed. [Join them](#) in calling on the European institutions to phase out the use of chemical synthetic pesticides in the EU by 2035.

Help achieve this by adding your signature, spreading the word and sharing the initiative widely within your network – by copy-pasting this text as an email, and/or on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Linktree](#).

#### **Help spread the word: Communication materials**

Have a look at the ‘Save bees and farmers’ website and browse the initiative’s communication materials – available in [more than 20 languages](#).

For additional background information about the initiative, have a look at [our website](#). IFOAM Organics Europe members can visit the [member extranet](#) for more materials or contact [verena.mitschke@organicseurope.bio](mailto:verena.mitschke@organicseurope.bio).



#### **How can EU policies consider organic farming's benefits for biodiversity?**

IFOAM Organics Europe recently published [a new report highlighting the contribution of organic farming to protecting Europe's biodiversity](#). By setting an ambitious target of 25% organic land by 2030, the European Green Deal also put emphasis on organic farming's benefits for biodiversity and climate. The report now recommends Members States to fully use Eco-schemes and agro-environmental measures in their CAP Strategic Plans to maximise the contribution of organic farmers to the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the new CAP.

According to Eric Gall, IFOAM Organics Europe's Policy Manager “By supporting organic farming in their CAP Strategic Plans, Member States have a powerful tool to ensure that their national agriculture policy will start to address the collapse of our biodiversity, which has been a reality in the European countryside for decades.”

The report, commissioned by the European organic movement, is authored by [Nic Lampkin](#) and [Bruce Pearce](#).



To learn more about:

- The report's objectives and main findings, read our [press release](#);
- The potential of national CAP Strategic Plans to achieve the 25% target of organic land in Europe by 2030, read [our recent report](#);
- The Common Agricultural Policy and its role in achieving the 25% organic land target, read [our webpage on the CAP](#);
- The 25% target itself, read our [webpage on Food Policy](#) and browse our library.

For more information on biodiversity and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio](mailto:hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

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## Fairness and transparency

### Read the leading initiatives for more sustainable foods in FAO's handbook

Sustainable food systems are critical to ensure that future generations have access to food and consume healthy meals. Many food system operations must be rebuilt to transition to sustainability, and a multitude of players throughout the world are beginning to act locally. While some changes are simpler to implement than others, understanding how to manage them to promote sustainable consumption and production methods necessitates a wide range of expertise.

To respond to this requirement, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)) and the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment ([INRAE](#)) released a [handbook for sustainable food systems innovators](#), available in English, French and Spanish.

The handbook collects experiences and initiatives by innovators from all over the world who are leading initiatives to grow, share, sell and consume more sustainable foods in their local contexts. It allows for a personalized learning and action journey according to the priority of the reader. The topics included in this handbook are arranged into four categories of innovations: engaging consumers, producing sustainably, getting products to market and getting organized. It also includes several entries about organic.

[Read the handbook.](#)



[www.euorganic2030.bio](http://www.euorganic2030.bio) website is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The sole responsibility for this communication lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

## **Food, farm and environment**

### **Vote on European Parliament's Farm to Fork Strategy report: mostly positive on organic**

The [Farm to Fork \(F2F\) strategy](#), published in May 2020 with a view of holistically transitioning towards more sustainable food systems, immediately gathered much attention from policymakers and stakeholders. Among these, the European Parliament (EP) embarked in working on their own initiative report led by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Anja Hazekamp (the Left Group – ENVI committee) and Herbert Dorfmann (European People's Party – AGRI committee).

#### **Tremendous interest in Farm to Fork Strategy report**

As a testament to the interest for this own initiative report, suffice to know that MEPs tabled more than 2,200 amendments. This means that MEPs suggested more than 2,200 modifications to the F2F strategy, to put forward the position of the European Parliament on this strategy.

As it is difficult to vote on 2,200 amendments, they were condensed in so called “compromise amendments” – 48 of them – as well as in some self-standing amendments, that were voted on by the Parliament’s Committees on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and Environment (ENVI) committees on 9 and 10 September.

#### **Civil society wants an ambitious report**

In the weeks and months leading up to the vote, IFOAM Organics Europe together with other NGOs put together an advocacy and communication strategy to call for an ambitious European Parliament F2F strategy report. NGO's priorities are summarized [by the Food Policy Coalition](#).

#### **What lies ahead & position on organic**

While the final F2F Strategy report will be adopted in the plenary of the EP in October, we can already report on the outcome of the vote and therefore on the content of this report. MEPs “welcome the ambitions and goals of the farm to fork strategy as an important step in ensuring a sustainable, fair, healthy, animal friendly, more regional, diversified and resilient food system, which is central to achieving the goals set out in the European Green Deal and in the SDGs”.

On organic, MEPs welcome the Commission’s recognition of organic farming as a crucial component in transitioning towards more sustainable food systems, as well as the ambition to reach 25% EU organic land by 2030. MEPs also stress the importance of the organic action plan for developing organic. However, while organic is presented in the context of sustainable public procurement (SPP) both in the F2F Strategy and in initial amendments to the EP F2F Strategy report, reference to organic in the context of SPP was taken out from the final EP report on the F2F Strategy.

For more information on the Farm to Fork Strategy and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio](mailto:silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#).

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## **Feedback to public consultation on the Revision of the EU legislation on animal welfare**

During the summer, the European Commission launched an [Inception impact assessment \(roadmap\) on the revision of EU legislation on animal welfare](#). As IFOAM Organics Europe, we welcomed this initiative and hopes it will contribute to elaborate a future EU legislation that improves animal welfare.

In our reply, we recalled that organic farming practices are based on [the four principles of organic: ecology, health, care, and fairness](#). These also applies to animals, and the EU organic regulation pays close attention to animal well-being and should be regarded as an animal welfare best practice. Specifically, the EU organic regulation mentions “the observance of high standards for health, the environment and animal welfare in the production of organic products is intrinsic to the high quality of those products”.

In this regard, we support creating an animal welfare labelling system that puts forward adequate and species-specific animal welfare practices, in which the organic standard is clearly identifiable. We presented the example of a model like the egg label, implemented by the European Union in 1999 under the method of production (MOP) labelling option. This uses an easy-to-understand and implement ranking system where 0= organic, 1= free range, 2= barn, 3= cage. This system clearly shows which agricultural practice contributes most and least to the welfare of the animal. The implementation of this label did not put too much extra costs or burdens in the system and led to a tremendous change in consumer behaviour in some Member States, as consumers have the guarantee that organic is controlled and certified. We believe this labelling system is a relevant model for other agricultural products.

[Read our feedback right on the EU Better Regulation page.](#)

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we will keep on advocating for higher animal welfare standards in the upcoming months and years as the European Commission foresees:

1. A new animal welfare legislation by 2023 as announced in the Farm to Fork strategy, and
2. To “find concrete and operational ways to further improve animal welfare in organic production” as per action 21 of the new Organic Action Plan.

For more information on animal welfare and IFOAM Organics Europe’s work on this issue, please contact [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#). For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## **1.2 Research and innovation**

### **Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics**

#### **European Partnership on Safe and Sustainable Food Systems: Narrative and factsheet published**

The final consolidated narrative of the future European Partnership on Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate is now available on the [website of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research \(SCAR\) strategic working group on Food Systems](#).



The four thematic areas for transformative research and innovation include:

1. Change the way we eat;
2. Change the way we produce and process food;
3. Change the way we connect citizens to food production; and
4. Change the way we govern the food system.

### **Organic & agroecology in the narrative**

The narrative considers TP Organics' comment to include organic and agroecology as exemplary circular systems in the second area: "Special attention will be given to R&I approaches that build on the HE [Horizon Europe] Partnerships and Missions<sup>6</sup> with linkages to safe and sustainable food systems, in particular those that create circular systems, use natural resources sustainably, and foster healthy soils (e.g. agroecological and organic approaches)."

It also took up the demand for collaborative and integrated policy design and governance engaging stakeholders, and that the partnership will advocate for a more extended view on food, not only as commodity but also as a commons and a human right.

### **What are European Partnerships?**

European Partnerships bring the European Commission and private and/or public partners together to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges through concerted research and innovation initiatives. They are a key implementation tool of Horizon Europe and contribute significantly to achieving the EU's political priorities.

Learn more about the new European Partnerships on the [dedicated webpage of the European Commission](#) and in [this infographic](#). A factsheet on the Food Systems Partnership to which TP Organics contributed as well will soon be available.

### **How will the Partnership achieve its ambition?**

The partnership will achieve its ambition to coordinate, align and leverage European and national R&I efforts on future-proof food systems through five interconnected activities:

1. Joint funding of R&I for food systems transformation;
2. Launching a food systems observatory;
3. Establishing a food systems knowledge hub;
4. Learning from initiatives in the SFSS and beyond in the knowledge hub; and
5. Knowledge transfer and competence building/education including scientific advice for policymaking.

The possible governance structure foresees a collaboration partners platform, which will include representatives of diverse civil society and other stakeholder groups.

### **TP Organics' role in the Partnership**

TP Organics is part of the development of the partnership and co-author of the template (a first "business plan"), which is currently being drafted by the core group. It will serve as the basis for the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and will be circulated for comments in September. Moreover, a workshop will be organised at the end of September, bringing together various stakeholders, so stay tuned!





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## Knowledge for organic

### Organic Farm Knowledge platform awarded first prize in Digital Excellence in Agriculture Contest

The online platform [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) was awarded the first prize of the '[Digital Excellence in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia – Regional Contest](#)' in Category 2, 'Capacity development and empowerment'!

The contest identified Organic Farm Knowledge as one of 28 impactful, sustainable, scalable and innovative practices using a combination of multiple technologies, enabling the digital transition of Europe and Central Asia's agricultural sectors. The short-runners, winners and champion practices were announced during the virtual awards ceremony on 23 September 2021, in the framework of the [ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe 2021](#).

As one of 7 winners, Organic Farm Knowledge was awarded the first prize in Category 2, 'Capacity development and empowerment', as an initiative and solution widening the reach of rural communities, improving access to and knowledge of good agricultural practices, stimulating relevant digital literacy and skills, and creating new business opportunities.

[Organic Farm Knowledge](#) is an online platform providing practical knowledge and tools for (future) organic farmers and advisors. IFOAM Organics Europe and core partners Research Institute of Organic Agriculture – FiBL and International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems, ICROFS, set up this platform and are further developing it with other key actors in the organic sector (see below).

We are proud of this achievement and hope the recognition at international level will support the awareness and uptake of the platform by a larger public.

Read more:

- [Excellence Report](#) (see pp.42f. for the application)
- Webpage of the [Digital Excellence in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia Regional Contest](#)
- Webpage of the [ITU-FAO Stocktaking Report](#)
- [List of Executive Board Members](#)
- [List of Editorial Board Members](#)

Digital Excellence in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia – Regional Contest is organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Office for Europe and Central Asia and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Offices for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States with almost 200 applicants from 38 countries.



*Organic Farm Knowledge is a product of OK-Net Arable and OK-Net EcoFeed. These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements No. 652654 and No. 773911 respectively. The information contained within this platform only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided*

## **Emerging eco-friendly solutions to plant & animal protection inputs - RELACS scientific publications**

The [RELACS project](#) recently released two new scientific papers on promising plant and animal protection methods and strategies for reducing the use of disputed external inputs.

### **Treating powdery mildew in cucumber production with tagatose**

Powdery mildew fungi (Ascomycota phylum) is a persistent threat to cucumber production in soilless systems, requiring application of a lot of chemical fungicides to keep yield losses to a minimum. In their article [Foliar and root applications of the rare sugar tagatose control powdery mildew in soilless grown cucumbers](#), Corneo et al. investigate the development of eco-friendly alternatives, assessing the effectiveness of foliar and root applications of the rare sugar [tagatose](#) on cucumber. The study reveals that administrations of tagatose were more successful than traditional chemical treatments in lowering powdery mildew disease incidence and severity.

### **Riboflavin supplementation in laying hens**

In the recent study [Riboflavin for laying hens fed organic winter diets: effects of different supplementation rates on health, performance and egg quality](#), Leiber et al. seek to establish a safe lower threshold dose of riboflavin supplementation for laying hens fed organic formula. To identify a threshold at which insufficiency would be unlikely, researchers observed performance, egg quality, and health features in chickens supplemented with graded riboflavin levels in organic winter diets. The findings unveil that whilst a supplementation of only 1.5 mg riboflavin kg<sup>-1</sup> resulted in some metabolic signs of deficiency, the addition of 3 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> feed appeared to be sufficient with respect to the health and performance.

[Learn more about these findings and other scientific publications on RELACS's website](#) and follow the latest project's developments on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using @RELACSeu and #RELACSeu.



*RELACS seeks to promote the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools and technologies to reduce the use of external inputs in organic farming systems. [IFOAM Organics Europe](#) is responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as the coordination of the science-practice-policy dialogue.*



*RELACS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773431. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*



## **Boosting organic seed & breeding - Policy and stakeholder recommendations**

As the [LIVESEED project](#) is coming to its end, it has released [a synthesis of all its results and recommendations](#).

### **Use and market potential of organic seed**

The report first presents key results and innovations that allow boosting organic seed and plant breeding. LIVESEED identifies - for the first time - the use and market potential of organic seed for major crops. It also highlights the importance of more harmonized and stricter implementation of derogation rules for non-organic seed supported by improved interactive national databases and an EU wide router database.

### **New cultivars and novel strategies for seed health**

The report also summarises recommendations for the characterization and registration of new cultivar types with higher levels of genetic diversity, as now defined in the new EU Organic Regulation (2018/848). Novel strategies for seed health and frugal on-farm cultivar testing networks were explored to allow farmers an informed choice of most-suited cultivars.

### **From a system-based breeding to reach the SDGs to genetic marker tools**

LIVESEED also developed a systems-based breeding concept including social aspects to achieve the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, it explored both breeding strategies to enhance crops' resilience by improved diversity (like cultivar mixtures, dynamic populations, composite cross populations, crop mixtures, agroforestry) and the importance of root and seed microbe interactions. The project also developed phenotypic screening and genetic marker tools for major crops and explored the perception of novel breeding techniques among organic consumers.

### **Making high-quality organic seed more available**

After a synopsis of the main outcomes of LIVESEED, [the synthesis](#) presents the evidence-based recommendations and actionable next steps to improve the availability of high-quality organic seed cultivars suited for organic production with respect to:

- Regulatory and policy measures on production, use, and transparency of organic seed;
- Measures enabling release and marketing of organic heterogeneous material and organic varieties suited for organic production as well as frugal models for on-farm cultivar testing supporting farmer's choice);
- A holistic organic seed health and quality strategy and upscaling seed production;
- Boosting and harnessing innovations of organic plant breeding; and
- Socio-economic aspects to achieve a viable organic seed supply chain and consumer trust.

Read the full report [Synthesis of the project's results](#) on [LIVESEED's website](#) and follow the latest project's developments on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using @LIVESEEDeu and #LIVESEEDeu.

IFOAM Organics Europe members can access the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) for background materials on organic seed (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

LIVESEED aims to boost organic seed and plant breeding across Europe. IFOAM Organics Europe and FiBL-Switzerland coordinate the project with 50 partners covering 18 EU countries.



The [LIVESEED](#) project will increase transparency and will provide recommendations on organic seeds. The project partners analyse national seed databases and factors influencing organic seed production and use. They also explore national policies, smart practices, build EU infrastructure and analyse issues on propagation. The partners also want to advance testing protocols to improve the availability of organic seeds, ensuring they are adapted to the realities of organic farmers. LIVESEED is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



*LIVESEED has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727230 and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation under contract number 17.00090. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## 2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENT

### Our 2020 annual report is online! Read about us, our vision 2030 & achievements

Do you want to know more about the work we did to help transform European food and farming in 2020? Read all about it in our [digital 2020 annual report](#).

For this year's edition, [our President Jan Plagge welcomes readers with a video message](#). You can also read:

- [Our vision for organic by 2030](#);
- [Our achievements, activities](#) and steps towards '[Organic on every table](#)', '[Improve – Inspire – Deliver](#)' and '[Fair play – Fair pay](#)';
- [Organic in Europe at a glance](#): the EU's regulatory and policy frameworks, organic market and production trends, and organic's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- [Who we are](#): our members, structure, governance, advocacy topics, projects and events.

The digital format available on <https://read.organicseurope.bio/> allows you to read the publication on the go. [Start reading now or bookmark it as summer reading](#).

We are cutting down on printed publications to protect our natural resources. This is why you will find most of our future publications on [read.organicseurope.bio](https://read.organicseurope.bio). Stay tuned!



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HAVE AN INITIATIVE THAT TRANSFORMS FOOD AND FARMING? VISIT  
[EUORGANIC2030.BIO](https://euorganic2030.bio) TO SEE INSPIRING EXAMPLES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN!

## Help us show that organic is a front-runner in transforming food & farming

To make our [shared Vision for organic in 2030](#) a reality, we collect European initiatives that are [transforming EU food and farming](#) and could inspire others.

We are looking for:

- recent initiatives, not older than 5 years;
- already ongoing;
- implemented in Europe;
- aiming at either: bringing organic on every table, improving organics further, or making the value chains more transparent and fairer.

**Do you have an initiative or a project fitting these criteria?** Submit it by [filling out this form](#). We will showcase the selected initiatives on the website, our social media and in our newsletter ([subscribe to it](#) to stay tuned).

**Do you need inspiration?** Have a look at some of the initiatives already working towards these goals like [organic demonstration farms](#), [cooperative farms](#), [organic farmer networks](#), ...

**Do you want to help spread the word?** Feel free to post about this on social media by copy-pasting [this message](#):

The #OrganicMovement is full of ideas & eager to make the #FoodAndFarming system fairer, healthier, more conscious & caring. Get inspired & submit your own initiative that is #MakingEuropeMoreOrganic on <http://ow.ly/svbG50D1cG2> #EUOrganic2030



*The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This publication only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## Saying goodbye to our colleagues

### Elena Zovi

After almost four great years as HR, Operations, Projects and GDPR Coordinator at IFOAM Organics Europe, Elena Zovi turned onto another path in her career.

Elena was very dedicated to her colleagues' well-being, genuinely embedding the organic principles in all aspects of her work. Her contribution to our externally funded projects helped us to ensure the quality of financial reports and build trust with our donors. Elena worked with passion, a positive attitude, and conscientiousness. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her new personal and professional adventure.



## ESC Volunteers

### Nuria Alonso Suárez

After 11 very productive months at IFOAM Organics Europe's Events & Membership team, we are saying goodbye to our team member Nuria. She did an amazing job and valuably contributed to making IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business, the European Organic Congress, Organic Innovation Days & other events a success. With her resilience, motivation and good organisational skills, Nuria was a dedicated team member and will be very missed by her colleagues! We wish Nuria best of luck in the upcoming new academical experience.

### Lili Barta

We are saying goodbye to Lili, who contributed to the Research and Innovation team, mostly to the LIVESEED project. Lili was involved in several tasks in the project, coordinating booklet translations, developing an animation video on organic plant breeding, compiling project newsletters, organising the final stakeholder event of the project, and taking part in project management and reporting. Lili has been a versatile and 'open to learn' colleague who was not afraid to get to the bottom of things. With her fun and positive attitude, she really brightened our days during the past dark COVID-times. We would like to express our gratitude for her work and wish her the best of luck in her next endeavours!

### Gaëlle Cau

IFOAM Organics Europe's communication team is sad to see its volunteer, Gaëlle, move on to new challenges after 11 months of working together. Gaëlle did a great job contributing to the communication team's work. Thanks to her contributions, sending out our newsletter, managing our social media, creating content and technical tasks were smooth sailing. We will miss Gaëlle's professionalism, dedication, writing skills and her bright personality. Instead of saying 'goodbye', we would like to say 'see you soon'!



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## Welcoming our new colleagues

### Antoine Pauti

Antoine is delighted to join IFOAM Organics Europe in Brussels on 1 September. He is a 25-year old French national who studied Law, History and Politics. Antoine specialised in environmental issues and worked at the Council of Europe and French public institutions. Antoine is excited to contribute to representing the interests of the organic sector and start his new role as IFOAM Organics Europe's Policy Assistant at a time where legislative activity will intensify after the summer break.

### Amélie Steu

Amélie joined IFOAM Organics Europe on 1 September 2020 as Project and Fundraising ESC Volunteer. After this fulfilling experience, she will continue working at IFOAM Organics Europe as a Policy Assistant on Agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Amélie holds a joint Master's degree in development and international relations from Sciences Po in Toulouse. During her studies, she had several work experiences abroad, in the Czech Republic, Germany and Italy, at the United Nations and the French Administration. Amélie developed a strong



personal and professional interest for sustainable food and farming systems during her studies and experience at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome. Her experience at IFOAM Organics Europe confirmed her wish to dedicate her professional career to advocate for more sustainable agricultural policies at EU level.

#### **Hanna Winkler**

Hanna joined IFOAM Organics Europe's policy team as Policy Coordinator to follow climate issues on EU level on 2 August. She studied environmental sciences at the University of Copenhagen and University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna. For the past two years, Hanna has lived Brussels, where she did a traineeship at the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and worked on various research and innovation projects at the European Food Information Council. She is excited to get to know her new colleagues and work together for a transformation of the food system.

#### ESC volunteers

##### **Arianna Bellemo**

In 2019, Arianna graduated from the University of Vienna with a BA in Political Science. She completed her Masters' Degree in International Relations and International Organization at the University of Groningen in 2021. Coming from a small town in northern Italy, she has always been fascinated by diverse languages, cultures, and environments, reflected in her experiences abroad. During her most recent work experience, she researched and investigated the realm of illicit trade and its relation to global sustainability, security, and safety. She is enthusiastic to start a new adventure joining IFOAM Organics Europe's **Communication team**.

##### **Maria Vittoria Borghetto**

As daughter of organic bakers, Maria Vittoria approached the world of good, clean and fair food since she was a child. She founded a Slow Food Youth Network in her hometown in Italy to raise awareness on these issues among her peers, while orientating her studies towards the same objective. She recently concluded law studies with a research thesis on Unfair Trading Practices in the B2B food supply chain. After a traineeship in a consultancy specialized in EU agri-food law and one in a Local Action Group, she is excited to begin her new experience in the **Policy team** of IFOAM Organics Europe.

##### **Axel Géry**

After a degree in European law at the University of Orléans, Axel continued his training at the University of Nantes within the Master I Trilingual Jurist. He later joined the Master II specialised in Agriculture and Food law at the Panthéon Sorbonne University. Aware of the environmental and economic issues linked to agriculture Axel hopes to pursue an internationally oriented career after his ESC period at the **Finance and Office Operations team** of IFOAM Organics Europe.

##### **Laura van Heeswijk**

Originally from the Netherlands, Laura has studied philosophy and art history in Scotland for the past 5 years. In her free time, she has been an active member of the improv theatre society. She is very excited to come to Brussels and learn about European policy and advocacy right where all the action happens. She is looking forward to joining the **Events and Membership team** and learn as much as possible about organic farming and how to promote this in Europe.

##### **Rico Heller**

Rico is 21 years old and freshly graduated in Political Science from the University of Mannheim in Germany. He loves travelling and meeting new cultures and faces. Last year, he had the opportunity to do an exchange semester in Hong Kong. Now his next station is Brussels, and he is thrilled to see what it has to offer. He is very excited to join IFOAM Organics Europe during his gap year as part of the **Projects and Fundraising team** and eager to learn more about IFOAM Organics Europe and the organic movement.



## Maria Ladinig

Maria grew up in a small farm in the south of Austria (Carinthia). She is a German and Slovenian native speaker, belonging to the Slovenian-speaking minority of the area. Later, Maria moved to Vienna to study crop science and agricultural pedagogy. She is a very open, sociable person who likes to spread positive energy and sometimes gets lost in talking. In her free time, she loves travelling, meeting interesting people, hiking and spending time in nature. She is always ready for new adventures, such as the new experience in the **Research & Innovation team**.



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## 3 EVENTS

### 3.1 Preview of events

#### BIOEXPO Warsaw – The international trade fair for organic food and non-food products 30 September-2 October 2021

[BIOEXPO Warsaw](#), the international trade fair for organic food and non-food products, will take place on 30 September-2 October 2021. It is the only event in Poland and Central and Eastern Europe solely dedicated to the organic industry.

**MARKET LEADER |** The first edition of the fair was organised in 2019 by Ptak Warsaw Expo. BIOEXPO Warsaw represents a significant contribution to the development of the organic sector and the greater promotion of a healthy lifestyle. This comprehensive response to the needs of the industry and consumers has been appreciated by its partners, LIDL and the Polish Chamber of Organic Food (PIZE).

**HIGH SCORE |** More than 250 exhibitors have confirmed their participation in the fair for 2021 and around 15,000 visitors are expected. Leading brands include: Soligrano, BioPlanet, BeOrganic, EkoZagroda, Dary Natury, SuroVital, Farmy Roztocza and Smak Natury -- with new companies and visitors still joining the event.

**INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES |** BIOEXPO is an opportunity to present a broad assortment of products by all exhibitors who have obtained organic certification. The event is supported by IFOAM Organics Europe, the European umbrella organization for organic food and farming, which is a perfect way to establish new international business relationships. What's more, BIOEXPO Warsaw will be attended by foreign buyers interested in importing food and organic products to their countries, thanks to the Hosted Buyers program.

**ACCOMPANYING EVENTS |** BIOEXPO Warsaw creates chances to co-operate with prominent innovative companies. For instance, there will be two important events accompanying the fair, both organised by the Polish Chamber of Organic Food:



- The first one is IFOAM Organics Europe's [Organic Food Conference](#), co-organised in collaboration with the Polish Chamber of Organic Food, taking place on 30 September–1 October 2021 online and live from Warsaw. Targeting particularly organic food processors, retailers, traders, importers and control bodies, this year's edition motto is "The future of organic food". The event will cover, among others, the European Green Deal and how to reach the 25% target of organic land by 2030; expected changes in the new EU Organic Regulation; how packaging should look like for organic products; and much more.
- The second event will be the BIOEXPO Congress, dealing with the subject of agriculture and ecological food, natural cosmetics and cleaning products, as well as health.

For more information and to register, please visit [BIOEXPO Warsaw's official website](#).

## Demand better food & farming – Good Food Good Farming European Action Days 1-31 October 2021

This year, [Good Food Good Farming](#) its European Action Days again 1-31 October 2021. Raise your voice, create an initiative and help convince political leaders to stop industrial agriculture!

Food and farming policies in Europe need to transition towards fairer, healthier, more environmentally conscious and caring systems, rewarding farmers who deliver public goods. We need to show policymakers that citizens, farmers, activists and civil society demand ambitious agricultural policies to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises and provide healthy food for all.

We invite you to get creative and show your support through on- and offline actions. Groups and individuals can organise events showing other ways of farming and calling on our governments to make ecological and sustainable food and agricultural reforms.

### What can you do?

- **Organise an action between 1 and 31 October 2021** and [let us know about your plans](#). All on- and offline events will appear on the map on Good Food Good Farming website. Use online banners, posters, the action toolkit and other materials, that you can find on [www.goodfoodgoodfarming.eu/resources](http://www.goodfoodgoodfarming.eu/resources);
- [Share the mobilisation video](#) (available in various languages) [and call to action](#) with your members/partners, in your newsletters, and on social media using #GoodFoodGoodFarming;
- [Use and share #Farmers videos](#) to show decision-makers that many farmers are ready for change and live the change every day on their fields and farms. These videos were produced by GFGF together with organisations from Czech Republic, France and the Netherlands and progressive farmers demanding change. All are available with English subtitles and you can find example tweets in English in the same folder.

Are you organising in-person actions? Please respect local regulations and take responsibility for the health of participants.

Stay tuned on [www.goodfoodgoodfarming.eu](http://www.goodfoodgoodfarming.eu) and follow [@GFGActionDays](#) on Twitter.



## Natexpo 2021: don't miss the reunion! 24-26 October 2021

[Natexpo's 2021 edition](#) will open its doors on 24-26 October in Paris Nord Villepinte. The fair is expecting:

- 1.350 exhibitors for three full days of 100% organic business;
- Loads of content to discover; and
- More than 150 newcomers, 250 internationals, and spaces dedicated to young organic stars.

Buyers will be able to renew their sourcing with small rising brands such as the Organic Incubator, The Big Splash, The Lab, The Cosmetics Village and more.

Big names of the organic sector will be there too, together with historical exhibitors showcasing on bigger surfaces compared to last year's edition. What is more, the show welcomes 35% brand-new exhibitors.

At Natexpo, visitors will be updated with all latest organic trends: Natexpo Awards, New Products Gallery, Innovation Forum and more than 150 conferences. You do not want to miss it!

IFOAM Organics Europe will be attending Natexpo, hosted at Natexbio's booth. Come visit us at **booth K32**. Get your free badge and more info on [www.natexpo.com](http://www.natexpo.com)

## Save the date & contribute: 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Copper in Plant Protection 17-18 November 2021, online

Recent severe weather events and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report make it clear: agriculture will have to prepare for more droughts and heavy rain events. In wet years such as 2021, plant protection in organic perennial and speciality crops are a challenging task for farms, especially when it comes to copper minimisation. Nevertheless, the organic sector has been proactively engaged in a copper minimisation strategy for decades and is determined to continue to make progress in this area.

The [6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Copper in Plant Protection](#) will:

- Discuss the development of copper use in plant protection;
- Identify challenges which still need to be overcome by future research and development projects; and
- Reflect on innovations which can support minimisation and how politics can support farms in the transformation

Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft (BÖLW), IFOAM Organics Europe and the Julius-Kühn-Institute are pleased to **invite stakeholders from research, industry, practice and politics to save 17-18 November in their planner**.

We will release the programme and open registration in October.

A [call for papers](#) is already open if you wish to present the results of your own studies or practical trials. To register contributions, please send an informal e-mail with the topic and title of the contribution to [mering@boelw.de](mailto:mering@boelw.de) by **30 September 2021**.



Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages



*Day two is carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) as part of the Federal Program for Organic Farming and Other Forms of Sustainable Agriculture (BÖLN).*

## Register now for TP Organics' Organic Innovation Days 2022 30/11-1/12 2021

[Registration for the Organic Innovation Days 2021 is now open](#) – join us and discuss the latest organic research & innovation themed ‘Better inputs for organic farming’ on 30 November-December 2021.

For this edition of the Organic Innovation Days, TP Organics partners with the European research projects [RELACS](#) and [Organic-PLUS](#). These two Horizon 2020-funded EU projects aim at reducing the use of contentious inputs in organic farming systems.

On the first day, the alternatives to contentious inputs in organic farming will be discussed. The second day will be dedicated to socio-economics aspects and the way forward for contentious inputs. Participants will take a closer look at plant protection products. Several alternatives as well as results will be presented by the projects’ experts, followed by discussions.

Stay up to date on the [event webpage](#), [download the draft programme](#) & [register](#) by 28 November!

Present on social media? Share your thoughts and pictures from the event using the hashtags [#OrganicInnovationDays](#) [#OID2020](#) [#TPOrganics](#) as well as the Twitter handles [@TPOrganics](#), [@RELACSeu](#) & [@OrgPLUSresearch](#)!

### Background information on the research projects



*Coordinated by Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) Switzerland, RELACS has 29 partners from 13 European countries. IFOAM Organics Europe is responsible for communication, dissemination, and facilitation of the science-practice-policy dialogue. RELACS will foster the development and facilitate the adoption of cost-efficient and environmentally safe tools and technologies, to phase out the dependency on and use of inputs considered contentious in organic farming systems.*



*Coordinated by Coventry University’s Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, ‘sister’ project **Organic-PLUS (O+)** involves 10 universities and 15 multi-actors (other research institutions and NGOs) in 8 EU and 4 non-EU countries. The overall aim is to provide high-quality, trans-disciplinary, scientifically informed decision support to help all actors in the organic sector, including national and regional policy makers, to reach the next level of the organic success story in Europe. Both projects started in May 2018 and officially run until end of April 2022 (not considering possible Covid-19 extensions).*

*Pathways to phase-out contentious inputs from organic agriculture in Europe (Organic-PLUS) has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774340.*





*These sessions are financed by the projects RELACS and Organic-PLUS, which have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements No 773431 and No 774340, respectively.*



*This event is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The sole responsibility for this event lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## **SAVE THE DATE - IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business (online) 9-10 December**

Time flies and we will soon be opening registration for the [4th edition of IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business](#), 9-10 December 2021.

This successful platform for exchange between players from the whole (organic) supply chain – including processors, traders, retailers, and certifiers – brings together IFOAM Organics Europe's members and their members, as well as companies involved in or interested in organic, such as retailers that have an organic range, or processors that are contemplating to start working with organic products.

This edition takes place online and focusses on the organic regulation and policy-related issues. A more detailed agenda as well as more information about registration will follow soon and will be available on our website.

### **3.2 Review of events**

#### **Celebrating the launch of EU Organic Day – 23 September**

On 23 September, the European Parliament, Commission and Council of the European Union celebrated the launch of the new annual EU Organic Day. During the morning ceremony, [the three EU institutions signed a joint declaration establishing 23 September as EU Organic Day in the presence of our President Jan Plagge](#), representatives from Copa Cogeca, Eurocommerce, CEJA, EuroCommerce and FoodDrinkEurope and the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions.

In the coming years, 23 September will be the ideal opportunity to evaluate Europe's progress towards achieving its goal of 25% organic land by 2030, trends in consumer demand, awareness of organic in the supply chain and the implementation of the EU Organic Action Plan.

#### **Agriculture Commissioner stresses targets EU Farm to Fork & Biodiversity strategies**

At a press conference following the signature ceremony, Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, conveyed his happiness about establishing this day and emphasized the collective effort necessary to reach the objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. He said that EU Organic Day, instated on 23 September and the autumn equinox, reminds us of the balance between night and day, and the balance needed when working



with nature. He further declared that there is no risk for food security due to the implementation of the EU Farm to Fork and EU Biodiversity strategies. Both strategies aim at increasing food production's standards but will not result in a decrease of food availability. Finally, Commissioner Wojciechowski highlighted the importance of the Organic EU Action Plan's 23 actions in reaching 25% organic land by 2030 and Member States' national ambitions to develop organic farming. [Read the Commission's press release](#) and watch the [press conference](#).

### As EU organic movement, we celebrate...

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we are happy the Commission followed up on its promise made in the EU Organic Action Plan to create a day to raise awareness of organic and its benefits. Together with our members, like-minded and sector organisations, we celebrated EU Organic Day across Europe – mostly online given the circumstances – highlighting the contribution of organic farming to regenerate European agriculture and to reconcile farming and nature.

We are looking forward to collaborating with relevant institutions and interested stakeholders and all Member States and regions to make this annual EU Organic Day a success!

### ... and are thankful!

We would like to thank our members, office staff, organic stakeholders for their work towards making Europe more organic and wish you a [healthy](#), [ecological](#), [fair](#) and [caring](#) EU Organic Day! Next year, we will make sure to celebrate in style with coordinated actions across Europe and we will also celebrate our 20th anniversary!

Want to relive this special day for organic? Watch our [Director's video statement](#), browse [#EUOrganicDay](#) and [#OrganicEU](#) on Twitter and have a look at our [Twitter moments](#).

### Food Councils and citizens - FoodSHIFT2030 webinar

How can citizens be more engaged in transforming food systems? Food Councils are one way and the FoodSHIFT2030 project highlighted the work of three Food Councils in Europe in its latest webinar. Chair Beatrice Walther, from the Leibniz Centre for Agriculture Landscape Research invited the Food Councils of Berlin, Amsterdam, and Ghent.

Lisa Haarhoff started the discussion by introducing the *Ernährungsrat Berlin*. One major goal of this Food Council is the shift towards an eco-friendly food system by 2030 and hereby, to include all social classes. To accomplish this, the Food Council functions as a bridge between society and the local government.

The *Food Council MRA* consolidates the aims for sustainable food in the region of Amsterdam. One of the projects promotes an alternative supermarket that brings together all small and regional entrepreneurs.

Finally, the webinar looked at the approach of the Food Council in Ghent. This Food Council combines both bottom-up and top-to-bottom approaches to make sure no stakeholder is left out in the transformation of the food system.

FoodSHIFT2030 is a Horizon 2020 project promoting food systems innovations in nine cities across Europe. More information about the 9 nine FoodSHIFT Labs is available [on the FoodSHIFT2030 website](#).



Follow the project on social media using @FoodSHIFT2030 on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

IFOAM Organics Europe contributes to the conceptual framework for further development of governance strategies and food policy strategies. We will also disseminate project outputs within the organic network and at our main events.



*FoodSHIFT 2030 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 862716.*

### Info Days on Horizon Europe Cluster 6-7-8 July 2021, online

Under the Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe, [Cluster 6 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment](#) is central to the European Green Deal. It aims to reduce environmental degradation and tackle biodiversity decline on land, in waters, and oceans through transformative change to achieve a climate-neutral Europe within planetary boundaries. During the European Commission's Info Days on Cluster 6, participants from all over the world could learn more about funding opportunities in the Cluster 6 areas.

#### Research & innovation, key enablers of the EU Green Deal

Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver, Director of Quality, Research and Innovation, Outreach at the European Commission's DG AGRI, pointed out that research and innovation are key enablers to achieve the quantified targets of the European Green Deal, including at least 25% of EU agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture. She also mentioned the Organic Action Plan, which needs to be implemented at EU and local levels, and the need to transform the way farmers manage land in 9 years, with only 9 growing seasons left, through stepping up efforts across all intervention areas of Cluster 6.

#### Horizon Europe and its destinations

Horizon Europe's first Work Programme (2021/22) is structured along destinations (these are big chapters with a title, narrative, expected impacts, link to impact areas and a table summarising calls of the destination) and includes the topics with expected outcomes and scope. Kerstin Rosenow, Head of Unit of Research and Innovation at DG AGRI, introduced Destination 2, "Farm to Fork", which is key to the success of the Green Deal and Sustainable Development Goals. Research & innovation and knowledge exchange on organic and agroecology are key drivers to ensure food and nutrition security for all. Furthermore, synergies with other projects, clusters, partnerships, missions and the Joint Research Centre as well as international cooperation are important.

#### The importance of a multi-actor approach

The multi-actor approach (MAA), which was already important in Horizon 2020, is now included in Horizon Europe Cluster 6 as an eligibility criterion and counting for evaluation under Excellence. Around half of Cluster 6 projects in calls 2021/22 are multi-actor for more impact of the budget invested in research and innovation, ensuring that the outcomes are relevant to society. Inge van Oost, Policy Officer at DG AGRI stressed that project objectives must target end users and their needs. Actors use their local and practical knowledge and entrepreneurial skills to develop solutions and should be involved throughout the whole project. The MAA creates co-ownership of results, speeding up acceptance, uptake, and broad implementation of ideas. Results should be practical and



understandable. Cross-fertilisation creates practical knowledge. Facilitation is crucial, as are links to interactive local innovation groups such as EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

Furthermore, a dedicated call on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), which are key for involving all food system actors, will accelerate the necessary transition of our food and farming systems, in addition to scaling up support for AKIS through CAP Strategic Plans.

#### **The Soil Mission, contributing to EU policies**

Missions as a key new instrument in Horizon Europe and horizontal actions with a public goal will create a core network and multi-level governance, facilitate engagement from local to EU levels, and join different sources of funding to transform in an inspiring way and in the long run. In the session on the Mission for Soil health and food and the Oceans Mission, it was stressed that healthy soils are at the heart of the European Green Deal. Healthy lives and healthy environments depend on healthy soils. The Soil Mission (HORIZON-MISS-SOIL-2021-01-01) will contribute to the new Soil Strategy, the EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, the Organic Action Plan and the EU Soil Observatory and will develop recommendations, priority actions, business models as well as social innovations. Actions will span all types of land use, sectors, and value chains. Living labs will foster collaboration between actors while lighthouses will also include training and communication for the improvement of soil health.

You could not attend some or all of the sessions? Do not worry. You can [rewatch all sessions](#).



*This is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). It only reflects the views of the authors, and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## **4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE**

### **IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MAIN SPONSOR 2021**

The contributions of sponsors allow IFOAM Organics Europe to focus on its most important work – representing organic stakeholders. This funding is a means to co-finance IFOAM Organics Europe events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.



## 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

30 September-1 October 2021

[Organic Food Conference](#)

Online and in Warsaw, Poland

30 September-2 October 2021

[BIOEXPO Warsaw](#)

Pruszków, Poland

1-31 October 2021

[Good Food Good Farming European Action Days](#)

On- and offline

17-18 November 2021

[6th European Conference on Copper](#)

Online

30 November-1 December 2021

[TP Organics' Organic Innovation Days](#)

Online

9-10 December 2021

[IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business](#)

To be determined

15-18 February 2022

[BIOFACH 2022](#)

Nuremberg, Germany



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